

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 9 with the following paragraph.

-- In an alternative approach, with the clamp in place, the surgeon makes a longitudinal incision in the artery which contains plaque material. The collapsed filter and sheath as described in Fig. 9A are inserted through the arteriotomy and advanced downstream the atheromatous lesion in the internal carotid artery. The sheath is then withdrawn to expand the filter to cover a substantial portion of the cross-sectional area of the artery. The construction and use of an expansion frame, associated ~~filter mesh 42~~ filter mesh 45, and control mechanism 43 have been thoroughly discussed in earlier applications including Barbut et al., U.S. Application Serial No. 08/553,137, filed November 7, 1995, now abandoned; Barbut et al., U.S. Application Serial No. 08/580,223, filed December 28, 1995, now abandoned; Barbut et al., U.S. Application Serial No. 08/584,759, filed January 9, 1996, now abandoned; Barbut et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,769,816; Barbut et al., U.S. Application Serial No. 08/645,762, filed May 14, 1996, now abandoned; Barbut et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,662,671, and Tsugita et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,042,598; and the contents of each of these prior applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. It will be understood that the design and use of a filter mesh, associated expansion frame, and control mechanism as discussed in these patents and applications is fully applicable to the use of such filter and expansion frame on a guidewire or arterial catheter system as disclosed herein. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 1 with the following paragraph.

-- The introducer sheath 60 will typically have an external diameter of 5–12 French, more preferably 6–8 French. With reference to the filter device, the diameter at the distal end will typically be 1–3 mm, more preferably 1.5–2.5 mm. The filter is generally activated from the proximal end and is deployed from within a small sheath or on the outside of a guidewire or small tube. The length of the filter device is generally 20–40 cm and the deployed diameter of ~~filter mesh 42~~ filter mesh 45 will typically be 2 mm or larger, more preferably 4 mm or larger, more preferably 6 mm or larger, more preferably 8 mm or larger, more preferably 10 mm or larger, and generally will be 2–10 mm. The foregoing ranges are set forth solely for the purpose of illustrating typical device

dimensions. The actual dimensions of a device constructed according to the principles of the present disclosure may obviously vary outside of the listed ranges without departing from the basic principles disclosed herein. --